

2-16-2012

# The Pacifican February 16, 2012 (Voter's Guide)

University of the Pacific

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## Recommended Citation

University of the Pacific, "The Pacifican February 16, 2012 (Voter's Guide)" (2012). *The Pacifican*. 251.  
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/pacifican/251>

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# Voter's Guide

The Pacifian Special Edition 2012

## Voting Is Important

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

*John Quincy Adams*  
John Quincy Adams

"I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom."

*Thomas Jefferson*  
Thomas Jefferson

"The unity of freedom has never relied on uniformity of opinion."

*John F. Kennedy*  
John F. Kennedy

"A vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user."

*Theodore Roosevelt*  
Theodore Roosevelt

## ASuop Elections

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## How to Vote for ASuop

**Juliene Sesar**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

This coming Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Associated Students of University of the Pacific [ASuop] elections begin for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. Students will vote for the incoming President, Vice President, and Senator positions.

It is important for all students to be informed before voting, and that there is an equal opportunity for all students to vote.

This year, ASuop will be, along with having voting online at [ASuop.pacific.edu](http://ASuop.pacific.edu), having paper ballots. Voting booths will be located in several places around campus.

"Booths will be located on the South and North campus as well as in the University Center," stated Morgan Stonefelt, C.O. 2013, ASuop Elections Commissioner. "South and North campus will have iPads in which students can access online voting and the University Center will have paper ballots to promote efficiency, as more than one person can vote at a time."

The voting booths will be located at different places on campus depending on time. For instance, the booths in the DUC would be open around breakfast, lunch, and dinner times because there is more foot traffic during those times.

ASuop decided to include paper ballots this year to try and reach their goal of 1100 voters. "I think paper ballots will give the students an extra incentive to vote since they will be right in front of them as they walk to class or to the center of campus," said Stonefelt. "Also, paper ballots give a sense of security, in the sense that they will unmistakably be able to vote and personally place it in the ballot box without any technological confusion."

Students can vote only once for two offices: President/Vice President as well as the

Senator of their school.

"We have devised a system that will ensure that even if students vote twice - once in person and online, the vote that is cast first will be the one counted," clarified Stonefelt.

Students can always write in names if they do not wish to vote for anyone currently on the ballot. There are currently four vacant positions: Benerd School of Education Senator and the Senators at Large for Athletics, Multicultural, and Residential Life.

"I don't care if you're voting for or against. I just want you to vote, like I want you to get out and have your voice heard," said Jenn Mazzotta, Student Activities Assistant Director. "Even if you're voting for Mickey Mouse, at least you came out and you looked and saw who the candidates were and maybe you said, 'I don't like any of you...Click!'"

Here are descriptions of what each position is in charge of and will help students in the voting process:

The President and Vice President share a lot of responsibility. Each student will receive a wage of \$10.50-an-hour, and on average, will work 20 hours-per-week.

"The President and Vice President meet weekly with Jason Velo and Jenn Mazzotta, ASuop advisors and bi-monthly with Dr. Elizabeth Griego, Vice President for Student Life and the University President once a month. Meetings with other University administration occur on an as needed basis," according to the 2012 ASuop Elections Packet.

The ASuop President is also called the Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Students. The President is in charge of relaying information to University administration, the Board of Regents, and the greater community about what the student voice wants. The President does not have a vote on the ASuop Senate,

or the University Board of Regents, but they do attend both meetings.

The Vice President, according to the 2012 ASuop Elections Packet, "is responsible for all activity within the legislative branch, including organizing Senate committees, planning Senate agendas, facilitating meetings and responding to the wishes of the Senate. The Vice President appoints members to Senate sub-committees and maintains membership on all committees." He or she also serves as the Vice Chair of the executive branch and the Chair of the legislative branch.

The School Senators and Senators at Large serve on the Senate, which is the legislative branch of ASuop. There are eight School Senator positions, and three Senator at Large positions. Other members of the Senate including: the President, the Vice President (who is the Chair), the Treasurer, and the Advisor. The Senate approves the annual ASuop budget, including all of its divisions.

"Senators decide well over 700 thousand dollars worth of budget each year, which is hugely impactful," said Mazzotta. "Senators are the voting body that makes the decisions on where that money goes."

The money that the ASuop Senate votes on decides all funding for clubs and organizations on campus.

All Senator positions are unpaid positions. They are required to attend the weekly Senate meetings, as well as, be in the ASuop Office at least 2 hours-per-week.

After the elections are over, the newly appointed President will begin the search for members of the President's Cabinet. If students would like to become a part of the President's Cabinet, which are four to five positions, they can apply at ASuop after the elections are completed.

## Reflections from a President

Being ASuop President this year has been an incredible experience. I never could have imagined that I would develop so much as a leader and love Pacific, and its students, as much as I do now. Being a representative of the student body has placed me in the perfect position to better learn how to serve students. In giving advice to any candidate, the largest quality that I would say is needed in excelling in my position, is a passion for Pacific and the students that it educates. With large issues such as the proposed increase in tuition and the proposed cut of Cal Grants, keeping in mind the personal stories from students has helped me to stay motivated to advocate for their wellbeing. Having been the sole student present on several University committees and delivering reports at the Board of Regents meetings has transformed from being incredibly intimidating to completely comfortable. This position has taught me that the student voice is truly valued by administrators at every level of our school.

Leaving my position is, honestly, bittersweet. I've enjoyed my term so much that it greatly saddens me that it is coming to an end. However, I do look forward to welcoming a newly elected President into the ASuop family. My advice to all candidates running is threefold:

**1. Students should come first in any decision that is made.** By taking on this position, you are committing to represent every student that attends and has attended Pacific. Be able to distinguish your feelings about issues from those of the larger student body.

**2. Manage your time and energy wisely.** This position requires a lot of time, energy, and emotion—make adjustments for it.

**3. Utilize your administrative resources.** Had it not been for my incredible ASuop advisors and the support of all of the Student Life administrators many of my successes this year could not have been accomplished. Their commitment to students continues to inspire me and I highly encourage relationships with them just as I have been privileged to do.

No matter which candidate is elected, I am confident that they will serve students with their utmost attention. I fully extend any advice, support, and assistance to these dedicated leaders. Pacific has a long standing tradition of leadership, student-centered learning, and a commitment to excellence and I look forward to welcoming the new ASuop President-elect into such a profound legacy.

*Ashton Datcher*

## Presidential Debate

**Jesse Voelkert**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

As is tradition in many instances of electoral politics, ASuop will be hosting a debate and open forum for the President and Vice President candidates for the 2012 University of the Pacific Student Body Election.

The event will take place in The Lair at 6 PM, this coming Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Each of the candidates will be receiving questions from a neutral party and allotted a time period with which to answer, and all Pacific students are invited to attend. After the general questions, an open forum will be held,

whereby students will have an opportunity to present their own questions to the candidates.

This event gives students a chance to better know their potential student body leaders, and allows students to address specific questions or concerns to their candidates. This event is also helpful for those who have not yet had a chance to hear the opinions of the candidates or for those who have perhaps not yet made a decision. Come with questions, and a notepad in hand, and be prepared to make an educated decision this 2012 University of the Pacific Student Body election.



# PRESIDENTIAL RACE



Stephen Seely, running for ASuop President (Right), and Alexis Duclos, running for ASuop Vice President (Left).

**Christiana Oatman**  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Stephen Seely, C.O. 2014, and Alexis Duclos, C.O. 2013, were the first candidates to declare they were running for ASuop President and Vice President. They announced their candidacy after the Tuition Town Hall, and have identified their key issues as communication/transparency, tuition, and security.

Both Seely and Duclos argue that there are three distinct groups on campus that each have responsibilities in communicating with each other: students, ASuop and administration.

"It falls to the responsibility of the student to make sure they've identified their issues and are articulating them to ASuop and their fellow students...The driving force for communication between ASuop and administration is student activism... ASuop's responsibility is to go out to students, collect the issues, formalize the arguments, and present them to administration, faculty or staff... Administration's responsibility is to receive student opinion and take action on it to make the university a better place for students and faculty," Seely explained.

"The way I see it is that student body is beholden to administration, to challenge them to give accurate information. Administration is to give that information and neither party is doing that job right now. Student body is not pressuring administration enough, in my view. The way that Stephen and I have approached this problem is: how can we get out to students what administration is talking about? How can we communicate back to administration the real picture of students?" Duclos explained.

In order to be a better receptor to

student opinion, Seely and Duclos have proposed creating Outreach Hours, in which they will leave the ASuop office and go to a more informal environment, such as the Lair or the Commons, to answer questions and discuss issues with students. They are also considering implementing issue-based or regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings, where students also have an open forum to make arguments and identify issues that are important to them.

"With our wide base of knowledge and how [Stephen and I are] involved, we pull in information from multiple sources. We both communicate very differently to students and administration and staff. We have different ways of appealing to people, we tap into multiple ways of argument, our defaults are different. When appropriate, my default can be used and when appropriate, his default can be used," Duclos said, "For transparency to exist, Stephen and I have to have good communication between ourselves."

Both Seely and Duclos are opposed to a tuition increase. Duclos argues that "every organization should make sure that your students come first and education should be accessible. If you're not careful making tuition decisions, you are shutting the door to students who are lower class, who are a minority, who are immigrants... Especially when truthful reasons for hikes have not been communicated to the student body and there is not accountability from administration, I have become doubtful for why tuition is being raised. There needs to be more conversation and ability for students to challenge the administration when it comes to tuition hikes."

Seely, as Senator-at-Large for Multicultural Affairs, as well as

## Start Confident, Finish Strong

College of the Pacific Senator, Shelby Hogan, C.O. 2013, introduced legislation that "recommends that, in the event of a tuition increase, financial aid packages be increased at the same percentage rate as the tuition increase."

Both Seely and Duclos decided to run for office because of their love of University of the Pacific and the strong connections they have made to the school and its students.

"I've fallen in love with Pacific, it's become my home and I want to do everything I can to give back to the Pacific community that's given so much to me," Seely said, "...you also have an incredible amount of diversity. You can meet people you would have never met back home, and it makes you realize there's so many diverse and sometimes challenging, but always informative, viewpoints. Being gay, it's a wonderful opportunity to be here on such an open and loving campus."

"I'm extremely passionate about this university. I work tirelessly in my dedication to make this campus a better place, for students to feel connected and call it home. My passion will never fade. Very few people can question my passion for this University and the student body," Duclos added.

In his junior year of high school, Seely worked as a page for the House of Representatives. During his six months on Capitol Hill, the most important lesson that Seely learned was, "when people think of politicians, they think of them as their office. They don't really come to the realization that they're people. If you relate to someone as a person first and their job title second, you can get a lot more done." In his ASuop position, Seely works closely with the umbrella group for multicultural organizations, the United Cultural Council (UCC). On a personal level, Seely is a member Phi Alpha Delta, a pre-law fraternity. Both Duclos and Seely are active members of Pride Alliance.

Duclos is involved in a lot of clubs and organizations on campus. She currently works for Rec Sports and has previously worked as ASuop Elections Commissioner and in the Admissions office.

"I don't mean to make it seem like I do everything, I use college to try everything and see what I love the

most...I have a unique combination of perspective in conflict situations to see where everyone is coming from," Duclos explained.

In describing why she should be elected for Vice President, Duclos remarked, "The fundamental thing I want people to know on campus is that if there's one word to describe myself, it's dedication. When I choose to be involved in something, I put in 150 percent. I don't stop until I feel I made a significant impact and I push harder. I will never give up and I will never back down. I work tirelessly to improve myself, to improve the structure of ASuop if necessary and to be open to constructive criticism and feedback. Nothing comes before my dedication to my organizations, and ASuop is the organization at this university, at this place I've called home."

### Stephen Seely

College: COP

Major: Political Science

Class year: 2014

Activities: Phi Alpha Delta, Pride Alliance, Rec Sports, works at the library

### Alexis Duclos

College: SIS

Major: Development & Cultural Changes

Class year: 2013

Activities: Vice President of National Residence Hall Honorary, Alumni Outreach Coordinator for the Council of Social Entrepreneurs, Event Coordinator for Pacific Free the Slaves, Director of this year's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, Public Relations Director for OASIS, a Powell Scholar, a Safe Zone Trainer and a S2S Healthy Relationships Peer Educator



# Representing the Students' Needs

**Natalie B. Compton**  
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

ASuop President and Vice President candidates, Mekleet Aytenfsu and Graham Trauenick, are ready to do one thing, and one thing well for the students of Pacific if elected: give back. The College of the Pacific students are ready to improve the lines of communication to do just that for the Pacific community.

The duo brings a deep knowledge of the University. Their experiences combined make them experts in many facets of University life.

"I really feel like Graham and I would do a great job if we were elected to the position because not only do we have a great background with working with students and the administration, but we also have the passion that is needed for the position," Aytenfsu said.

Aytenfsu is a Resident Advisor in the quads, a student assistant in the Alumni Office, as well as the President's Office, and is a member of Alpha Phi sorority. Trauenick is a transfer from Diablo Valley College and is involved in Rec-Sports. Both are Pacific Ambassadors as well.

Aytenfsu was inspired to run to give back to Pacific and put her passion for the University to good work.

"I have gotten a lot of opportunities from the school whether it be through jobs or just meeting people in the administration," she said. "I wanted to better serve the University in the best way that I could and also really be able to represent the students properly."

Trauenick felt similar to his running mate. After transferring to the school as a sophomore, he feels that he has acquired a lot of skills through working at Pacific. Not putting them to a good

use would be a waste.

"I'm running for ASuop Vice President because I really want to utilize the skills and experiences that I have accumulated throughout these years," he said.

These candidates are focusing in on the importance of communication on campus.

"What we really want to do is represent the students and make their voices heard," Aytenfsu said. "As cheesy as it sounds, we really want to get a feel for what they want and explain that to the administration."

The duo is determined to make what the students want a reality.

"The platform we're running is to increase communication between our administration and our students and vice versa, our students with our administration," Trauenick said. "Especially now with a lot of the issues going on, it's the best time for everybody to be on the same team."

The team is prepared to facilitate better communication to get things done by heading straight to the decision makers, the members of the Board of Regents.

"There is really no direct line between Regents and students. The Regents really are the ones making Pacific happen," Trauenick said. "What we hope to do is make a meet

and greet or a student panel between the students and the Regents."

As a Pacific Ambassador, Trauenick gave a regent a tour and shared some of his ideas.

"He was very interested in what I had to say about student life, but he was unaware of a lot of the things that were going on campus," Trauenick said. "It's not his fault for that, but he was very interested in what was going on."

One of the hot-button issues on the Pacific campus is the tuition increase.

"The tuition going up is a problem for many students," Aytenfsu said. "It is something that was inevitable, but it is something that needs to be addressed."

The candidates believe that communication is the best way to handle the situation. They propose that students should be told exactly where the extra money is going and let the administration know how the increase is affecting students, so that both sides can reach a middle ground.

Another issue affecting students is the offering of childcare on campus. The Taking Baby Steps movement is leading the way in the push for the service. As a transfer student, Trauenick has seen that many students come to Pacific who are older and have families.

"I really do support having childcare services on campus absolutely," Trauenick said.

While many students are fighting issues such as the tuition increase, there is still a large portion of students who do not get involved. Aytenfsu and Trauenick believe that nothing that can be forced on students, but an increase in communication could do the trick.

"Definitely reducing that option of I don't even know what's going on, just letting students know what's going on," Aytenfsu said, "people will just start going to what they know is going on."

The candidates believe that an increase in student involvement in student media could help raise awareness of campus happenings.

"It's a great resource and I would love to see students using it more," Aytenfsu said. "I would love to see it utilized more."

Platforms aside, Aytenfsu and Trauenick's main focus and inspiration is their constituents.

"We're here for them," Aytenfsu said. "The reason that we want this position is for the students, not for any ulterior motive. I really feel that we want to help students the best we can, and that's why we're doing what we're doing."



Mekleet Aytenfsu, running for ASuop President (Right), and Graham Trauenick, running for ASuop Vice President (Left).

ASuop

## Mekleet Aytenfsu

**College:** COP

**Major:** Sociology & Communication

**Class year:** 2013

**Activities:** Pacific Ambassador, member of Alpha Phi, a Student Assistant

## Graham Trauenick

**College:** COP

**Major:** Psychology

**Class year:** 2013

**Activities:** Pacific Ambassador, participant in Rec Sports



## Alan Hensley

College: ESB

Major: Business Administration  
Sports Entertainment & Marketing

Class year: 2013

Activities: Social Chair for Sigma Chi, Executive Producer for Prowl TV, Special Projects Manager for Jason Velo under the Division of Student Life, Vice President of Art and Production for PAC Ave Records, and ASuop Senator at Large, Athletics

## Elena Goldfoos

College: SOECS

Major: Civil Engineering

Class year: 2013

Activities: ASuop Senator-at-Large, Residential Life, Executive Board for the Center for Community Involvement (CCI), Resident Assistant in Southwest Hall, National Representative for Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority Inc., and pledge educator for Theta Tau

# Demand Transparency at Pacific

make sure that ASuop is fully utilized by the student body," comments Hensley before explaining that, if elected, he will make sure ASuop also communicates effectively with the students on "what they are there for and how they can help."

Hensley and Goldfoos, however, also wanted to make it clear that they are going to be proactive in seeking student opinions. "I have no problem with going to the students and visiting their organizations to see what their concerns are or to drop in and listen in on their meetings" explains Hensley.

Hensley and Goldfoos also provided statements toward their opinions on current campus issues such as the increasing tuition costs, Cal Grant negotiations, and childcare services. "I think tuition is a huge deal as it affects all students who come here, not only students with financial aid," comments Goldfoos before continuing to state that, "I think it's really important for continuing students to voice their concerns with the tuition crisis right now."

However, Goldfoos also pointed out that although tuition is an issue that the new ASuop President and Vice President will have to focus on and face, other issues must not be overlooked. "There needs to be a balance in what we look at, and we shouldn't just be tuition centered even though we are going to focus on it. . . we need to balance other issues like Taking Baby Steps as well." As a member of the RA class that started the Taking Baby Steps initiative Goldfoos also provided her support for the program stating that the lack of childcare services affects not only students, but faculty and staff as well.

Both Hensley and Goldfoos believe that their leadership experiences, familiarity with ASuop, and involvement across campus makes them a good representative of the student body. "We are really relatable," explains Goldfoos. "We've been involved in such a wide variety of things between the two of us that I feel like for an average student we've maybe touched at least one of the same

experiences they have had at Pacific and can thus relate to them about it."

Currently, Hensley is the Social Chair for Sigma Chi, Executive Producer for Prowl TV, Special Projects Manager for Jason Velo under the Division of Student Life, Vice President of Art and Production for PAC Ave Records, and ASuop Senator at large for Athletics.

While Goldfoos serves as the ASuop Senator-at-Large for Residential Life, she is also on the Executive Board for the Center for Community Involvement (CCI), a Resident Assistant in Southwest Hall, a National Representative for Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority Inc., and the pledge educator for Theta Tau.

"I would love for us to be the medium in which our students can voice their opinions and make sure that the University knows that their decisions affect the student body as a whole," concludes Hensley on their campaign towards greater transparency within the University.

## Ara Menges

NEWS EDITOR

Having been involved with ASuop almost 3 years now, Alan Hensley is running as President for the 2012 ASuop Elections with Vice President candidate, Elena Goldfoos. The year head for their campaign is "Demanding transparency within the University" which focuses on promoting student voices in key decision processes on campus as well as making clear what resources and mediums are available for students to express their concerns through.

"I would like to see more student vocalization and less of administration making decisions thinking that they know what the students want, but instead have the administration learn about what the students want before making decisions," commented Hensley about what he would like to see improved at Pacific. Hensley also mentions that it is most important for decisions on issues that can affect the student body as a whole, such as tuition, financial aid, or even Bon Appetite's menu.

Another key component of their platform is to better advertise across campus through different mediums that exist for student opinions to be heard. For example, some Pacific students are not aware that ASuop open meetings are open for anyone to attend. "I want to be able to



Alan Hensley, running for ASuop President (Left), and Elena Goldfoos, running for ASuop Vice President (Right).

ASuop



# SENATORIAL RACE

## College of the Pacific:

**Karla Cortez**  
COPY EDITOR

America Velasco will be running for the office of Senator of College of the Pacific. The Senator selected to become the representative for COP will represent the largest population of students on campus.

Velasco feels that she will represent the students within COP well, "thanks to my on campus job I communicate with College of the Pacific professors and staff on a weekly basis. I also think that I will represent COP well...I would be someone that they [the students] would not be afraid to contact and tell me their problems or concerns..."

Velasco decided to run for the office of Senator because, "I wanted to do something for my school and be a part of something that would let me change things for the best, so that it can not only benefit myself, but



**America Velasco**  
America Velasco is running for the College of the Pacific Senator.

also all the students that are also a part of College of the Pacific." If elected, Velasco plans to stay in contact with the student body she will be representing in order to voice their concerns and install computers and printers within the Wendell Philips Center for those students who cannot afford to use library ink and printers. Velasco will be supporting Stephen Seely and Alexis Duclos in the ASuop presidential and vice-presidential elections: "I personally have had the chance to work with Alexis Duclos and I know what she is capable of and I know that both Stephen and Alexis have a great heart and want simply the best for UOP students..."

## Eberhardt School of Business:

**Juliene Sesar**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Molly Marshall, C.O. 2013, is running unopposed for the Senatorial position for the Eberhardt School of Business [ESB].

"I decided to run for ESB Senator because I wanted to represent all of the students of ESB as a whole, whether or not they identify with the constituent group (ESBSA), Pacific American Marketing Association (PAMA), Delta Sigma Pi, Student Investment Fund, or any other business-related organization on campus," said Marshall.

Marshall is very dedicated to ESB, and believes that every organization within the school is important and would like to gain their input.

"As a member of PAMA and ESBSA, I know that I am



**Alexis Zaharris**  
Molly Marshall is running for the Eberhardt School of Business Senator.

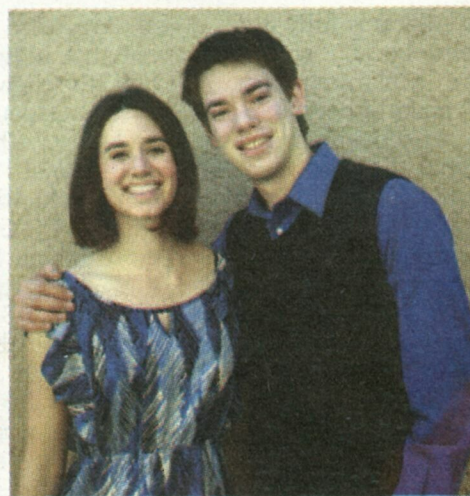
an excellent representative of the Business School. I love collaborating ideas, so I am open to any that ESB students may have," said Marshall.

Marshall is very excited to take on the position of Senator and hopes that it will give her the opportunity to increase ESB's presence on campus.

Marshall thinks that, "There are a lot of great candidates running for ASuop President and Vice President, and I am anxious to learn more about each candidate's platform."

## School of International Studies

**Sara Menges**  
NEWS EDITOR



**Sara Menges**  
Kathryn Loper and Marvin Morazan are running for the School of International Studies Senator.

### Kathryn Loper and Marvin Morazan

With a requirement to study abroad for at least a semester, most upperclassmen of the School of International Studies (SIS) find themselves excluded from the opportunity to run in ASuop elections. This is no longer the case as, for the first time in ASuop elections, two students from SIS are running together as Senator of the 2012-2013 academic year.

"I wrote the legislation that allowed us to split the term," explains Marvin Morazan, current SIS Senator who will be running again for elections with Kathryn Loper, former SIS Senator and winner of the 2011 Senator of the Year award. If elected, Morazan will take office during the Fall and Loper during the Spring as the other studies abroad.

Loper explained that the change in legislation was important because it improved the opportunities of SIS students to get involved. "We finally have a contested race this year (for Senator), I can't remember when the last time that happened in SIS" comments Loper.

With their previous experiences in student government and their familiarity on co-writing legislation, Morazan and Loper both believe that they can continue to represent SIS well by initiating similar changes in the future. Additionally Morazan and

Loper also plan to collaborate with other Senators across campus to host integrated events. "It's always good to have senators who are willing to branch out to other schools and build those external relationships," explains Loper.

When asked why they decided to run for Senator both Morazan and Loper responded that their previous experience in office inspired them to continue to be involved as they wanted to make sure the

voices of SIS students were heard. Similarly, both expect the new ASuop President to share these goals. "[We are] looking for someone who can continue to show the administration that ASuop is the voice of the students, and that if we don't like what they are doing, we will work to change it," explains Morazan.

### Kaya Dantzler

Majoring in International Relations, Kaya Dantzler is running for the 2012 - 2013 Senator position for the School of International Studies (SIS). Although this is her first year at Pacific, Dantzler spent a year after high school working for an educational non-profit organization in Los Angeles. "I'm a hard worker and I'm very passionate," explains Dantzler

as she answers why she believes she will represent SIS well. "I'm really just about giving back and helping people."

If selected as Senator, Dantzler hopes to improve the relationship between upperclassmen and lowerclassmen in SIS. Examples she gave were to increase conversations and interactions between students on topics such as study abroad experiences. "By sharing these experiences,

everyone can benefit from relationship by getting and exciting perspective she explains.

On a campus-wide Dantzler would like to broaden demographic of Pacific students. "One I am very adamant is diversity," she explains. "I would really like this campus provide an accurate representation of what the entire world is like."

Dantzler also wants students to be able to celebrate their 'unique' backgrounds by initiating more events geared towards promoting diversity. She states that hosting these events, would be giving "people a greater opportunity to their culture, where they come from, and their experiences and backgrounds with other students."

Overall, Dantzler believes that ASuop members should be "very visible, active and accessible to the students." She is hoping to create interactions between students and the students beyond campus and Entertainment Center. With this, she expects ASuop's new President and Vice President are people who are not only frequent on campus, but are willing to seek the opinions of the people they represent.

"Like I said before, I'm very passionate about this and I will do my best to hear everyone's perspective and implement the changes they want to see," said Dantzler on her motivation behind running for Senator.



**Sara Menges**  
Kaya Dantzler is running for the School of International Studies Senator.



# Conservatory of Music:



**Andrea Chatter**  
Andrea Chatter is running for the Conservatory of Music Senator.

**Juliene Sesar**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

This year there is a race for the Conservatory of Music Senator seat: Andrea Chatter

against Morgan Smallwood.

## Andrea Chatter

"I have been involved with the Conservatory for almost two years now and I have learned a lot of the inner-workings. Being on Conservatory Student Senate this past year, I have already established myself as a representative of the Conservatory. I have made connections and gained the trust of both students and [the] staff of the Conservatory," stated Andrea Chatter.

Chatter believes that she will represent her fellow classmates and school well because she wants to represent the people that have made her the musician she is today.

"I want to see the Conservatory have a bigger representation on this campus," continued Chatter. "I feel that the Conservatory students only have a presence amongst the facilities of the Conservatory. I want to have the students of the Conservatory become more involved in different areas of the campus. I also want to see events put on by the Conservatory, such as jam sessions, and other performances where all students and faculty are welcome to participate."

## Morgan Smallwood

Running against Andrea Chatter is Morgan Smallwood. Smallwood also has a large presence within the Conservatory of Music.

"I think I will be a good

representative of the Conservatory as a whole. I am very involved in the ensembles and classes that the Conservatory offers," said Morgan Smallwood.

Smallwood is currently a member of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the saxophone and clarinet studios, the Pacific Arts Contemporary Ensembles, and the MILK Saxophone Quartet.

"I am well acquainted with musicians of all different instruments and majors, so I see a large portion of the Conservatory on a daily basis. My frequent contact with Conservatory students both in academic and social life will insure that I will make decisions that best reflect the wishes of this school," said Smallwood.

Smallwood plans to represent her peers that



**Morgan Smallwood**  
Morgan Smallwood is running for the Conservatory of Music Senator.

have made her experience at Pacific so good. "I love this school and my music friends with a passion and I thought this would be a fun way to get involved with ASuop. I want to give back to the school that has made such a positive impact in my life," said Smallwood.

## School of Engineering and Computer Science:

**Juliene Sesar**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Jeremy Bagnol will be running uncontested in the upcoming elections for the School of Engineering and Computer Science [SOECS] Senator.

"As a third year Mechanical Engineering student here at Pacific, I try to get involved as much as I can within SOECS," said Bagnol.

Bagnol is highly involved within SOECS activities: he is a current member of the professional engineering and computer science fraternity, Theta Tau, as well as the engineering honors fraternity, Tau Beta Pi.

"I've experienced many of the courses engineers have faced, and befriended many of the engineering and computer science professors and students," said Bagnol. "I understand the needs of the school, and am committed to represent them well."

Bagnol is determined to make a better connection between students and administration in the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. "I worked with many students in the various branches of SOECS at this school, and I feel that there is a disconnection between administration and the students. I would like to create connections and help create transparency if possible, to generate solutions that would help our SOECS as a whole."

In the upcoming elections, Bagnol plans to support fellow Theta Tau member, Elena Goldfoos for Vice President and her running mate Alan Hensley for President.

"I've worked personally with Elena, and I know she'd be a strong, dedicated leader and I'm glad that she's running."



**Jing Aurelio**  
Jeremy Bagnol is running for the School of Engineering and Computer Science Senator.

## School of Graduate Studies:

**Karla Crotez**  
COPY EDITOR

This Spring's ASuop elections are coming up soon and new faces are emerging from the student population as prospective leaders within the Pacific community. Running for Senator representing University of the Pacific's Graduate Studies program is Danny Catalano.

Catalano, a current graduate student, is also a Residence Director and Graduate Assistant here at Pacific. Catalano decided to run for senator because he believed that, "as a graduate student and dues-paying member of ASuop, my voice needs to be heard. There are many issues and concerns our student body endures. As graduate students, we have the opportunity to bring change to this campus! As ASuop Senator for Graduate Studies, I will lead our constituency in a positive and realistic manner."

Catalano's platform is based on communication and connection. "I am a big believer in work/life balance, and as graduate students, sometimes we can get caught up in our on or off-campus jobs, school, and life," he stated, and continued, "Through networking opportunities and open communication between graduate programs, we can connect each other in our efforts to build a strong support system here at Pacific."

If elected Catalano plans on, "holding numerous social networking events through the academic year, both on and off-campus, open to all graduate students."



**Danny Catalano**  
Danny Catalano is running to be Senator of Graduate Studies.

## School of Pharmacy and Health Science:

**Sylvana Ho**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

"I didn't just want to be a normal dude," Robneet Athwal said. For his three years of undergraduate studies in the Pre-pharmacy Program, Athwal focused on his science courses and was a Kappa Psi brother. *Like a normal dude.*

But this year was different. Upon beginning his graduate studies at the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Athwal became more involved with on-campus affairs. He served as both a student advisor and the Academy of Student Pharmacists' class representative. "I'm in the loop with what's going on," he said, "and I hear what students say." Hence, he launched his campaign for the ASP Senate—to be the liaison between ASuop, ASP, and pharmacy students.

Athwal has been at Pacific for nearly four years. He recognizes how demanding school can be; he knows what concerns students. Thus, he is now taking the opportunity to refocus the school. Athwal expressed various times, "I just want to make school more fun. It's easy to get stressed out." For him and his constituents, that may mean hosting more events, inviting the food truck to the pharmacy campus occasionally, or strengthening the safety on campus. Athwal articulated, "Students' lives are at risk. How many robberies did it take for them to put a security guard at the Townies?"

In a single year, Athwal leapt from the shadows of the library and into Pacific pharmacy students' limelight. He expects that his time as ASP Senator will propel into a future in managerial pharmacy.



**Robneet Athwal**  
Robneet Athwal is running for the School of Pharmacy and Health Science Senator.



# PERSPECTIVES

## Student Opinions Not Heard Nationally

**Karla Cortez**  
COPY EDITOR

As a Political Science major, the first thing that we are taught about politics is that people generally don't care. One of the next lessons learned soon after, is that there is a positive relationship between age and voting. Unless we're talking about the Presidential election where a mere fifty percent or so of the voting age population participate, we're looking at much lower numbers for state elections. Of that percentage very few are younger than the age of 30.

In the 2012 Presidential election, 61.6% of the nation's eligible voters cast a ballot, a high not reached in over 40 years in US history. Project Vote, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to empower, educate, and mobilize low-income, minority, youth, and other marginalized and under-represented voters, reported that, though 21% of the eligible voter population, voters 18-29 made up only 17% of the actual Voting

population in 2008. This means that approximately 21 million citizens under the age of 30 did not vote.

This means that the youth of the United States is underrepresented. Our interests and problems come second to every union, interest group and population that otherwise participates in our national electoral system. This is the reality of the political arena, and logically the politicians running for office pay more attention to the people that vote.

This means that the populations of the United States under the age of 30, many of which are students, do not get their needs met by the United States government. This makes it more likely that the needs of a little old lady who is a member of AARP are met sooner than the population of the United States which is being inundated with student debt and horrible job prospects.

Why? The answer is because they care. Older adults are involved and have a stake in society at large more obvious

to them than to the youth. Consider this though: we as students have dedicated the majority of our lives to receive an education in order to reap the benefits that society in turn will bestow on us. How much more of a stake can America's youth possibly have other than the fact that we are going to inherit the problems of our government and the actions of our predecessors?

We are the future of our country and the problems of this generation will become the policy disputes that will take place in the future even though the policies passed now affect us very much. Social activist and deputy director for Progress 2050 Erica Williams stated in an interview, "I wish the generation now would realize how much actual power we do have. Not only when we show up to vote, but also in our daily life. We're progressive, more tolerant, and more diverse than past generations. All of that shows how much power we have to change

this country and turn it into something we've never seen before."

Regardless of your political views, the message is to involve yourself. Williams continued about how youth should be involved stating, "our generation is so unique in how different it is to be a activist in today's age. Activism doesn't look the same way as it did during our

parent's generation. In those days you had to rally, boycott or protest to be an activist. Today you can make your voice heard through social networks, blogs and voting. There are a lot of citizens who brush off midterm elections, especially youth." So make your voice heard and vote! Your voice matters, 21 million citizens can make a change.

## Vacant Positions

**Juliene Sesar**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

There are currently four positions that have no students running: Benerd School of Education Senator and Senators-at-Large for Athletics, Multicultural and Residential.

"Senate seats not filled by elections are filled by interview of seated senate committee during the school year and as available during the summer," according to Jenn Mazzotta, Student Activities Assistant Director.

### ***Benerd School of Education:***

The School of Education directs its efforts toward researching the present and future needs of schools and the community, fostering intellectual and ethical growth, and developing compassion and collegiality through personalized learning experiences, according to the Pacific School Catalog.

This school represents a lot of student concerns, as right now Taking Baby Steps is becoming a huge issue on campus. This candidate will also, most likely, reach out in the Stockton teaching programs to help improve literacy in the area and give School of Education students the chance to gain more experience in their field.

### ***Senator-at-Large, Athletics:***

This Senator focuses on the Athletics Department as a whole. They are in charge of making sure the voice of student athletes is known on campus. The senator attends the respective meetings: Pacific Student Athletic Committee and Sports Club Council.

It is not a requirement for this student to be an athlete, however, it is highly encouraged.

This Senator is concerned with the Multicultural activities on campus. They try and make sure that all the diverse groups on campus get their voices heard.

### ***Senator-at-Large, Multicultural:***

The Multicultural Senator works closely with the Multicultural Center [MC].

### ***Senator-at-Large, Residential Life:***

This Senator attends the meetings of the Residential Hall Association [RHA]. They get feed back from RHA on how on-campus living is changing and developing.

This Senator is encouraged not to be an RA, so that there will be an outside opinion on the information gathered.



Michael de Adder



# LOCAL ELECTIONS

## Stockton Mayoral Race Uncontested

Jesse Voelkert  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Current Mayor of Stockton Ann Johnston will be running for reelection this 2012 campaign season. Johnston has been a community leader since her 1977 election as President of the Elkhorn School Parent Teacher Association, and has owned and operated a retail business

Parton's Imagination Library in Stockton, where parents can sign up and have a book mailed to their children every month until they are five years old. This was brought to Stockton through the combined efforts of Mayor Johnston, Stockton Unified School District, San Joaquin County Office of Education, United Way, San Joaquin Public Library, Bring Me

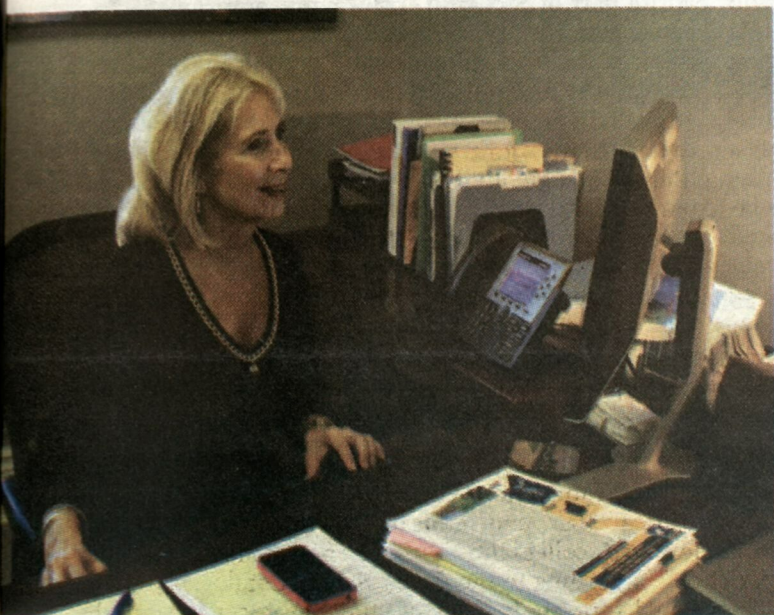
having been a teacher and eventually serving as a Lodi Unified School Board Member from 1979 to 1992.

The question of how Pacific students could help her to achieve her goals was presented. Johnston made mention of outreach into the community, such as University of the Pacific's "Beyond Our Gates" program. Johnston said to improve the

outside community Pacific "can expand what they are already doing with outreach," continuing, "I would encourage students to get involved at the local elementary schools." The main interest is for university students to provide examples to those in their early stages of school. "I think our young people need to see it's not a dead end out there. They need to know it's not always easy, but it's important. Show them the good things they can do." Johnston has been

happy with the community efforts made by Pacific so far. "I'm firmly pleased that Pam Eibeck is your president," noting, "Up until a few years ago the University was an isolated entity." There is also hope for Stockton to become a University town, with the presence of both University of the Pacific and CSU Stanislaus. "If Stockton could change to that image - that's where the University plays a key role."

When asked why Pacific students should vote for her, Johnston spoke of her credentials and her current plans. "They should vote for me because I am in the middle of programs that will develop the city of Stockton," adding, "Students should vote for me because of my experience, my business background, and my passion for the job." There are currently no official contenders to challenge Johnston during this election, though the race is still in the early stages.



Jesse Voelkert  
Current Mayor of Stockton, Ann Johnston, working at her desk.

in Stockton since 1981. If reelected, Johnston plans on continuing her efforts to achieve her top priorities in Stockton.

"Crime is number one," explained Johnston, "The top priority is obviously getting our crime situation under control in the city." Stockton was recently ranked number seven on Forbes's list of 'America's Most Dangerous Cities.' "Number two is trying to build economic capacity. That has been one of my top priorities for a very long time," also mentioning Stockton's abnormally high unemployment rate of around 17%. The third major problem to address within Stockton is education. "I've worked very hard since I've been in office to improve literacy rates in Stockton," continued Johnston, with the objective being to have programs that focus on children ranging from newborns to five year olds. One such program is the recent partnership with Dolly

a Book, the Rotary Club of Stockton, and University of the Pacific.

Johnston addressed the connection between these issues facing Stockton. "They're all interrelated, starting with education. Statistics shows 3/4 of prisoners within our prison system are illiterate." The correlation between education and crime is strong enough to warrant prison cell projections to be based upon literacy rates of a generation of children in third grade. Education also plays a factor into employment opportunities in Stockton. "The problem as I see it in Stockton is an uneducated work force," adding that the drop-out rate at local schools is about 35%. "You have a great disparity between the very rich and the very poor," explained Johnston, "A lot of it is because people are held back by a lack of education." This focus on education is due in some part to Johnston's background in education,



Clifford Oto  
Ralph Lee White as a 2008 mayor candidate

## Will Other Potential Candidates Oppose Ann Johnston?

Jesse Voelkert  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

As of February 20th, nobody has officially set forth to challenge Ann Johnston's position as mayor of Stockton. This comes after the 2008 election, which involved six different candidates. Several past candidates have already decided that they were not going to start a campaign. There are, however, information gathered from The Record shows some possible runners who may come out of the wood work.

Anthony Silva, the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton, for instance, has been approached with the question, but has not made a decision one way or another. Also, 2008 candidate Ralph Lee White has not officially announced a campaign, but said that if nobody business minded goes for it, that he will run, and if elected he will cut the homicide rate in Stockton in half his first year, or resign.

Other speculative candidates have declared they won't be running, but maintain that some opposition should be held. Past candidates such as Clem Lee and Motecuzoma

Sanchez, for instance, were a part of the five others who ran against Ann Johnston in the 2008 mayoral election. Sanchez is opting to focus more on a fellowship with a state Assemblyman, while Lee says he will not be a candidate this election, but claims the array of troubles facing Stockton may encourage another candidate to step up. Jimmie Rishwain, a businessman and past councilman said that he may consider another run for mayor, having recently creating a letter that explained his vision of Stockton.

There is still time for candidates to appear, with the official filing period for the mayor race lasting from February 14th to March 8th. Mayor Johnston expects other runners to appear, but Johnston has already raised \$50,000 dollars for her campaign. This race also comes at a time where Stockton is in the middle of several large issues and big policy changes, which may make the idea of running a campaign for mayor unappealing at this time. Political experts also point to Johnston having a good probability of winning this election season.



## District 4 City Council Race: Diana Lowery



Krissy Botz  
Diana Lowery is running for reelection for Stockton's 4th Council District

**Jesse Voelkert**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Diana Lowery is currently serving her first term as District 4 City Council Member of Stockton and will be run-

ning for reelection this 2012 voting season. Lowery is a 4th generation resident of Stockton, and has experience both as a self-employed business owner for more than 35 years and as a member of multiple community organizations.

When it came to what were the top priorities pressing Stockton,

Diana Lowery mentioned, "Public safety without a doubt", addressing the lack of jobs and crime within Stockton being "all the trials and tribulations of a down econo-

my". Lowery has done major work in forming private-public relationships as a way to address issues in the Stockton community, forging the first public-private infrastructure project within the city of Stockton in a partnership between University of the Pacific and the city to improve the Miracle Mile being one. "During my last four years, if you look at how I work, you will see I frequently work from a public-private relationship," explained Lowery. "Coming from private business I find it challenging to make the wheels [of government] spin faster." The Miracle Mile partnership, in which Pacific gave \$85,000, seeks to improve the Miracle Mile district entrances from both the northern and southern entrances. In this way, becoming more inviting for both businesses and visitors. "I think this will be historical," commented Lowery.

As past President of the Stockton Sister Cities Association, Lowery has also worked to forge an exchange program between the University of Parma, Italy and Pacific's McGeorge Law School.

"It really is an chance for

UOP students to get engaged in international opportunities." Diana Lowery and staff has also managed to secure funding for the Safe Routes to School and the March Lane / East Bay Municipal Utilities Bike Enhancement project from Precissi to Pershing Ave which will begin construction this summer. She was the major force behind the creation of VISTAS - Volunteers In Service To Aid Stockton. "It has volunteer opportunities for people to get experience, meet people, and try jobs out all by serving the community," Lowery explained, "the last four years we (Stocktonians) have really lit a fire of energy in volunteerism".

When asked about her favorite part of Stockton, Lowery explained, "What I really think is the best thing about Stockton is its quilt of different ethnicities and people. I don't think we understand how unique we are." The potential held within Stockton was also noted, with regard to how students from Pacific could help to improve their city. "After graduation I would love for some students to stay in Stockton," continu-

ing, "We have so many opportunities here. There are a lot of Stockton stories that have yet to be written." One of Lowery's goals has been to make Stockton a more inviting place for business success, which she has worked towards with both a Small Business Micro-loan Program and a local hire ordinance that requires any public project more than \$100,000 to have a 50% local hire work force.

On the question of why a Pacific student should vote for her, Lowery responded she has the energy, the knowledge, and the ability to make things happen," explaining "The experience from my business background, my community background, and my government background has served us well." In Lowery's image of her ideal Stockton, she describes, "An ideal Stockton will have a safe community, with jobs for everyone who wants them, and the strength to utilize the ethnic and cultural diversity to raise our families in a city that will be second to none."

## District 4 City Council Race: Moses Zapien

**Jesse Voelkert**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Stockton attorney, Moses Zapien, will be running against incumbent District 4 City Councilwoman Diana Lowery in the 2012 city council election. Zapien worked in the District Attorney's Office and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton and the Board of Governors of the San Joaquin County Bar Association. Moses Zapien is also a University of the Pacific alumnus who graduated with a political science degree in 2003.

"There are fantastic students, professors and administrative officers at the University of Pacific; being a product of Pacific, I would be honored to represent them at the city level," said Zapien, in regards to his relationship with Pacific and his choice to go into politics. "A good education is important toward growing as a person and learning that you can achieve your dreams

— Stockton's solidarity is my dream." Zapien was born and raised in Stockton, and was educated through Stockton's public education system. "While in office, I want to focus on decreasing crime, growing the local economy, working to ensure the city is financially responsible, increasing the transparency of government, strengthening our partnerships with educational institutions, and building more opportunities for our youth."

Zapien also grew up in a business environment, being part of a family that has owned businesses in Stockton for four decades. Zapien is currently involved in private practice through James M. Morris law firm. Stockton businessman and Civic leader, Mel Corren, believes Zapien would advocate for business, stating, "I have come to know Moses Zapien as a bright, earnest and determined person who deeply cares about Stockton. I believe he will work for the betterment of local business." "Some of

the strategies to improve Stockton's economy would be to attract new businesses by streamlining local government processes, promoting green industries and initiatives, and maximizing the use of the Delta and the Port of Stockton," explains Zapien, "Working to make Stockton a more appealing place for investment would also attract businesses that cater to students and would create a more vibrant student life. Similarly, working to reduce crime would provide Pacific students with a safer environment in which they can learn, work and grow."

The Humphreys College of Law graduate also served as the Chair of the Stockton Civil Service Commission until he recently stepped down. "I've worked with Moses Zapien on the Stockton Civil Service Commission; he brings a true sense of care for our community with willingness to serve," said Vice-Chair of the Commission, Susanne St. Clair. "Moses has done an



Michael McCollum/The Record  
Moses Zapien '03 in the law library at Humphreys College in Stockton, CA, is running for District 4 of Stockton City Council.

excellent job as chairman of the commission; I've learned much from his leadership," added St. Clair.

Zapien plans to maintain a firm connection with the University of the Pacific. "Moses Zapien understands the diverse needs of Pacific, both because he was a student, and because of his family's background in business," said Joy Siu, Director of Volunteer

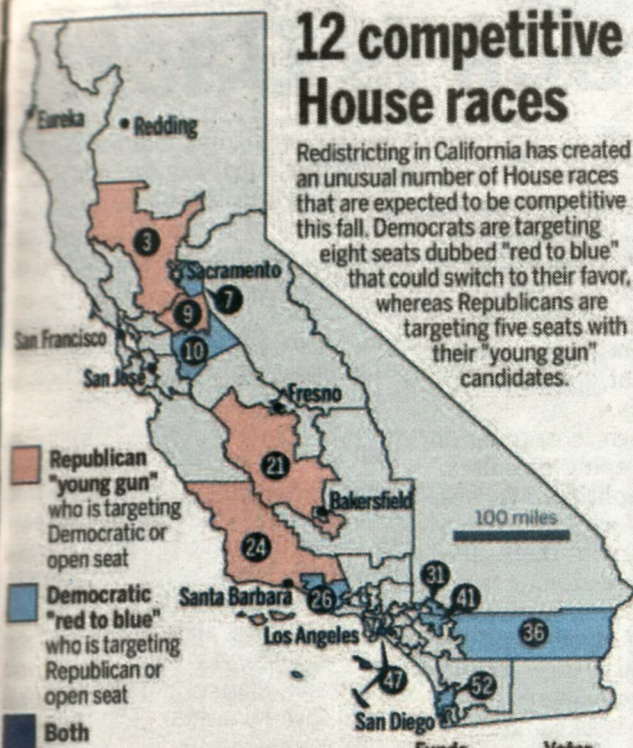
Activities with Moses Zapien for city council 2012. "I look forward to being a bridge between Pacific and the city of Stockton," remarked Zapien. "My vision is for Stockton to be a vibrant city where one can raise a family, where our children can receive a good education, where our neighborhoods are safe, and where job opportunities are plentiful for everyone."



# Redistricting Changes Congressional Races

## 12 competitive House races

Redistricting in California has created an unusual number of House races that are expected to be competitive this fall. Democrats are targeting eight seats dubbed "red to blue" that could switch to their favor, whereas Republicans are targeting five seats with their "young gun" candidates.



Candidate	Age	Party	Residence	Funds raised*	Voter demographics
<b>District 3</b>					
John Garamendi (i)	67	D	Walnut Grove	\$313,179	42% Dem, 32% Rep, 21% Did not state
Kim Dolbow Vann	36	R	Arbuckle	\$190,649	
<b>District 7</b>					
Ami Bera	46	D	Elk Grove	\$918,874	39% Dem, 38% Rep, 15% Did not state
Dan Lungren (i)	65	R	Gold River	\$521,206	
<b>District 9</b>					
Jerry McNerney (i)	60	D	Pleasanton	\$780,340	45% Dem, 36% Rep, 16% Did not state
Ricky Gill	24	R	Lodi	\$837,618	
<b>District 10</b>					
Jose Hernandez	49	D	Stockton	\$130,527	41% Dem, 38% Rep, 16% Did not state
Jeff Denham (i)	44	R	Atwater	\$809,527	
<b>District 21</b>					
John Hernandez	42	D	Fresno	Not reported	45% Dem, 34% Rep, 16% Did not state
David Valadao	34	R	Hanford	\$386,579	
<b>District 24</b>					
Lois Capps (i)	74	D	Santa Barbara	\$1,030,963	39% Dem, 35% Rep, 20% Did not state
Abel Maldonado	44	R	Santa Maria	\$640,299	
<b>District 26</b>					
Steve Bennett	51	D	Ojai	\$207,574	41% Dem, 35% Rep, 19% Did not state
David Cruz Thayne	40	D	Malibu	\$34,709	
David Pollock	50	D	Moorpark	\$25,913	
Jess Herrera	64	D	Oxnard	Not reported	
Tony Strickland	41	R	Moorpark	Not reported	
Akiva Werbalowsky	47	R	Ojai	Not reported	
Linda Parks	54	R	Thousand Oaks	Not reported	
<b>District 31</b>					
Russ Warner	61	D	Rancho Cucamonga	\$115,279	41% Dem, 36% Rep, 19% Did not state
Pete Aguilar	32	D	Redlands	Not reported	
Renea Wickman	49	D	Redlands	Not reported	
Gary Miller**	63	R	Diamond Bar	\$1,074,004	
Bob Dutton	61	R	R.Cucamonga	Not reported	
<b>District 36</b>					
Raul Ruiz	39	D	Coachella	\$178,786	39% Dem, 41% Rep, 16% Did not state
Mary Bono Mack (i)	50	R	Palm Springs	\$524,119	
<b>District 41</b>					
Mark Takano	51	D	Riverside	\$212,454	42% Dem, 35% Rep, 18% Did not state
John Tavaglione	62	R	Riverside	\$178,691	
<b>District 47</b>					
Alan Lowenthal	70	D	Long Beach	\$169,221	42% Dem, 32% Rep, 21% Did not state
Gary DeLong	51	R	Long Beach	\$367,486	
<b>District 52</b>					
Scott Peters	53	D	La Jolla	\$231,916	33% Dem, 35% Rep, 27% Did not state
Lori Saldana	53	D	San Diego	\$36,854	
Brian Bilbray (i)	61	R	Carlsbad	\$561,692	

(i) = incumbent

\* Fundraising as of Dec. 31, 2011, not counting outstanding debts and obligations

\*\* Gary Miller is currently in Congress, though not in this district

Sources: Federal Election Commission, California Secretary of State's Office

KARL KAHLE AND PAI/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Karla Cortez  
COPY EDITOR

There has been much contention from the result of a proposal made by California Common Cause, a nonpartisan organization for "open and accountable government," which was voted on and passed by the people in the 2008 California General Election. The proposal, called the Voter First Initiative or Proposition 11, resulted in taking the task of redistricting from the legislature and giving it directly to people in the form of a Citizen's Redistricting Commission.

New competition and what some are calling a 'generational shift' will occur due to the amount of new faces that are expected to be elected into California's Congressional Delegation. The effects of districts being redrawn affects congress members if a large part of their constituents were removed from their district due to new divisions, or if they themselves, are placed in a new district with different constituents.

The ending result of the process was the retirement of more than 6 incumbent members of congress and 12 districts which now have the potential to be represented by a legislator from a different party. Why is this important in the grand scheme of your life—because a change in the proportion of Democrats to Republicans in legislature can result in major changes in the type of policy being passed by majority support in Congress.

Issues that affect us such as Cal Grants, tuition, loans jobs, all of these are being discussed every day in the chambers of the California State Legislature. Bruce Cain, Director of the University of California Washington Center, told NPR in an interview, "by my calculation there are at least 13 seats that could go either way. Out of that could come, depending on the kind of national election we have, in 2012, it could be the swing of as many as five or six seats for the Democrats."

The resulting districts formed by the Citizen's Redistricting Commission have been challenged by Republicans in court only to be fended off five times by rulings in favor of the process and methods used by the commission. State GOP spokesman Mark Standriff, said that the Republican

Party supports the idea of an independent commission to draw California's political lines, but "the process got hijacked by political partisans along the way". One of the lawsuit's allegations was that some of the boundaries violate state constitutional requirements that and others failed to comply with the federal voting rights law governing minority representation.

Bruce Cain commented on the irony of the whole situation was that the Republican Party pushed for the reform for the 2008 election saying, "I think they expected to be the beneficiaries. But they forgot one thing, which is the iron law of Demography...; And what happened in the last decade was a continued growth in the Latino population..." The increase in the proportion of Latinos within California's voting population, which has reached 33.1% according to the 2012 *Political Cook Report* and their tendency to support the Democratic Party are also said to be a reason for the potential changes in legislature.

Redistricting is performed in all states every 10 years according to the most recent census information available. After years of state lawmakers being in charge of drawing district lines, there came to be a growing concern over corruption in the way that communities were being redistricted. David Wasserman, The House Editor of the *Cook Political Report*, a nonpartisan political newsletter, said that "One of the reasons that California accumulated so much clout was that in 2002, the Legislature passed an incumbent protection act that rendered none of the districts competitive."

More proof is evident that in that the past 20 years there haven't been more than two or three truly competitive congressional races in California, according to Guy Harrison, Executive Director of the National Republicans Congressional Committee. The act of political corruption which manipulates the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or class interest is known as gerrymandering and is illegal in the United States.

The citizens of the state of California were among the first of various states' citizens which demanded change in order to have a more diverse and representative

government. "In the past... the legislature used political data and used information about where people lived and took the existing lines and made them equally populated. This commission is the citizen commission, scrubbed clean of any attachments with the legislature," commented Cain.

According to Cynthia Dai, a Democratic commissioner who sat on the most recent California Citizen's Redistricting Commission, "The commission by law, was set up to reflect the state's diversity. Of the 14 commissioners, five were to be Democrat, five Republicans and four not of either major party... Not only did they set up a meticulous commissioner selection process, they also ranked in order the criteria we were to consider in drawing the boundaries."

Those criteria were the same seven criteria outlined in the California State Constitution. Dia continued in an article she wrote for the *Los Angeles Times*, "To better understand how Californians defined their communities, we conducted 34 hearings across the state. We accepted input in person, by phone, fax and email. Transparency was critical. Every meeting was public, live-streamed... More than 3,000 people testified at hearings or spoke during public meetings. We received more than 20,000 written comments."

Overall the Citizen's First initiative, although causing a wide range of political turnover, may be the change that Californians need. The Citizen's Redistricting Commission has been protected in court 5 times and not all politicians see the future as a bad change. "There's a lot to be said about mixing it up generationally, to have a constant invigoration of Congress with the new fresh eyes and fresh voices," said Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic Leader.

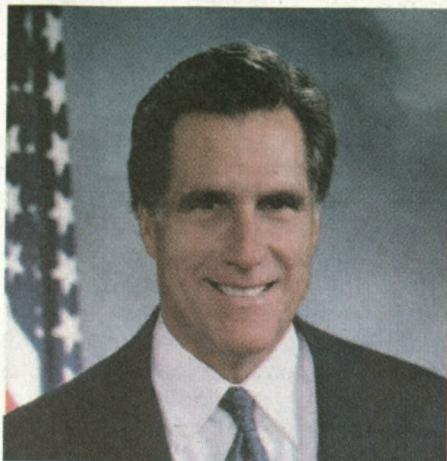
When asked if this may cause a change in the gridlock we as citizens have seen both in national and state politics, Cain stated, "... most Political Scientists believe that the gridlock is based fundamentally in deeper forces—either public opinion, the way the media operates or money." Regardless, the creation of the Citizen's Redistricting Commission is just another small step towards fair government and transparency in the history of California Government.



# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## The 4 Republicans

**Christiana Oatman**  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR



Mitt Romney is considered to be the frontrunner in the Republican candidates for President.

### Mitt Romney

Mitt Romney is generally considered the frontrunner of the Republican race to be the party nominee. He is the former governor of Massachusetts, and previously ran for the Republican nomination in 2008. His website declares his main message to be "we have a moral responsibility not to spend more than we take in."

He has also emphasized his experience in the private sector, he founded an investment firm in 1984, as a reason why he should be elected president and that will help him fix current major economic problems. His campaign has thus focused on economic issues, as well as reducing the size of government. Romney has won four primary/caucus states: New Hampshire, Florida, Nevada and Maine, and has 123 delegates to represent him at the National Republican Convention, where the party nominee will be declared.

Romney attended Brigham Young University as an undergraduate and received a dual degree in business and law from Harvard. Romney married his wife, Ann, in 1969, and the two have five sons and sixteen grandchildren. They are Mormon, and if elected, Romney would be the first Mormon president.

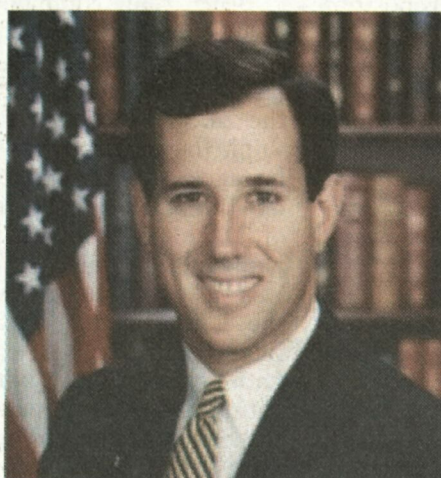
### Rick Santorum

Rick Santorum has represented Pennsylvania in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, where he currently works as the Senate Republican Conference Chairman. He has declared himself a "champion of traditional values."

Instead of focusing on the economy like many of his opponents, Santorum's campaign is focused on social issues. He is particularly "pro-life" on the abortion issue and is against gay marriage and other issues involving LGBT Americans. He also

wants to repeal Obama's healthcare legislation, and has argued that "strong families" will help improve the economy.

Santorum has won four states: Iowa, Colorado, Minnesota, and Missouri, leading to a total of 72 delegates.

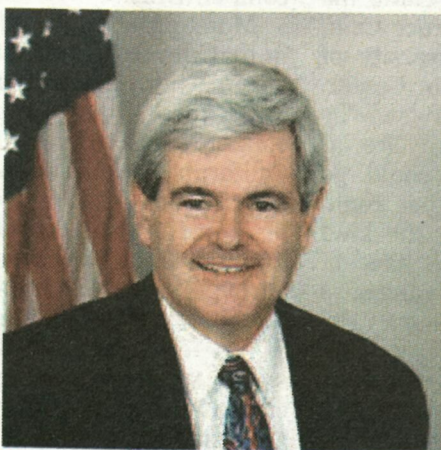


Rick Santorum has served as both a Representative to the House and the Senate.

### Newt Gingrich

Newt Gingrich is the former Speaker of the House (1994-1998), who is most famous for his Contract for America and for leading the criticism of Bill Clinton during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. He has since written a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Contract for America, in which he illustrates his key issues as, "repeal Obamacare; return to robust job creation; unleash America's full energy potential; save Medicare and Social Security...[and] balance the federal budget..."

Gingrich has won 32 delegates to represent him at the National Republican Convention, where the party nominee will be declared. The large portion of those delegates come from the only state caucus/primary



Newt Gingrich is the former Speaker of the House (1992-1998).

Gingrich has won, South Carolina.

Gingrich is currently married to his third wife, Callista Gingrich, and they were wed in 1998. He has two daughters from his first marriage.

## Barack is Back

**Christiana Oatman**  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

President Barack Obama is running for reelection in November 2012, and is currently unchallenged by any other Democratic candidate. Obama is currently the first African-American President, and before becoming president, was a US Senator from Illinois.

Obama's campaign is running on the platform of "keeping promises." It lists his accomplishments over the past four years as, "signed into law an economic plan that saved America from a depression, restored growth, and created or saved as many as 3.5 million jobs; signed into law landmark health insurance reform; reformed the college loan system by ending subsidies to banks and using the money to make college more affordable; repealed Don't Ask Don't Tell, which makes it possible for individuals to serve in the military regardless of sexual orientation... helped women get the equal pay they

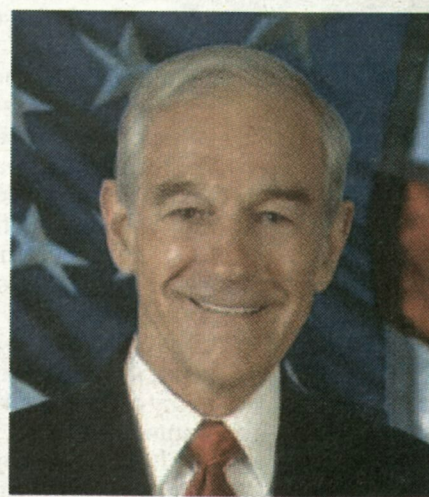
deserve by signing into law the Ledbetter Equal Pay Act...and the war in Iraq, initiated a responsible drawdown of troops in Afghanistan and ordered the operation that killed Osama bin Laden."

Obama's 2008 Presidential Campaign set records for African Americans and college students voting at the polls. Obama's campaign slogans of "hope" and "change" as well as his campaign poster became iconic. After becoming president, Obama's popularity numbers have risen and fallen; according to a New York Times article, he currently stands at about 50% approval of the highest approval rating Obama in months.

Barack Obama studied at Harvard Law School and later Constitutional Law at University of Chicago. Before serving on the Senate, he served for the Illinois State Senate. Obama married his wife, Michelle, in October 1999; they have two daughters.



Frank



Ron Paul is the only candidate that has called himself a libertarian.

### Ron Paul

Ron Paul is the only candidate who has called himself a libertarian. Currently, Paul represents Texas in the House of Representatives. He is 76

years old, and if elected, would be the oldest president in American history. He and his son, Rand Paul, were the first father and son to concurrently serve in the House of Representatives when his son was elected in 2010.

Paul's campaign website describes his policies as "limited constitutional government, low taxes, free markets and a return to...commodity-based currency." He is particularly popular among some college students because of his anti-war stance and belief in laws legalizing drugs should be repealed. Like Gingrich, Paul released a statement detailing his policies, called the Plan to Restore America.

Paul married his wife, Carol, in 1957, and they have five children and eighteen grandchildren. Before entering politics, Paul was a member of the Air Force and worked in medicine, specializing in obstetrics/gynecology.